(ख) इस प्रयोजनार्थ कितनी समितियां गठित की गई हैं और उनके द्वारा आयोजित किये गये कार्यक्रमों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में शिक्षा और संस्कृति विभागों में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एल० पी० साही) : (क) और (ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

New National highway in Kerala

822. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new National highway is proposed for Kerala ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when construction work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) The Government of India have recently declared the Cochin-Madurai Road as a National Highway, which incidentally covers a distance of about 130 kms. in the Kerala State. It is too early to say about the commencement of developmental works.

Declaring Trivandrum airport as an International airport

823. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to declare Trivandrum airport as an international airport ; if not, what are the hurdles in doing so;

(b) which state in India has the highest inflow of passengers (non-resident Indians working or settled abroad) ; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the Keralities working abroad are facing enormous difficulties in their air travel for want of direct international flights to Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Since the existing four international airports are considered adequate to handle the international traffic to and from India, there is no proposal to declare Trivandrum Airport as an International Airport.

(b) The relevant information is not available as separate statistics about embarking/disembarking non-resident Indians are not being maintained with reference to their State of Origin.

(c) Limited international operations by Indian Airlines and Air India have already been permitted from Trivandrum Airport to take care of the traffic requirements.

Applications of foreign airlines to operate from Trivandrum

824. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 718 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th November, 1988 and state :

(a) whether any application from foreign airlines for operating from Trivandrum is pending ; if so, what action Government have taken on these applications ; and

(b) what is the number of international passengers from Kerala during the last three years, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a)